Relief and rehabilitation for Iraq

1261. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided for relief and rehabilitation in war torn Iraq; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, under whose command and control relief and rehabilitation provided by India are being utilized; and

(c) to what extent UN role has been insured in such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) In response to an emergency appeal of the UN, Government has announced assistance of US $20 million for the people of Iraq. Out of this commitment, Government is providing relief supplies of food items such as milk powder and, following the Iraqi Ministry of Health's 'Adopt a Hospital' programme, is setting up, jointly with Jordan, a hospital in Najaf. As part of our relief and rehabilitation efforts, technical assistance to Iraq in various areas is under consideration. Our assistance is provided to Iraq bilaterally and is based on needs assessments conducted by UN agencies and Iraqi authorities. Where required, distribution and utilization of our commodity assistance is handled through UN agencies such as WFP.

Change in Pak policy towards militant groups

1262. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any perceptible change in Pakistan Government policy towards militant outfits, like Hizbul Mujahideen, operating from Pakistan or Pak occupied Kashmir has been noticed since Prime Minister's talk with Pak Premier on phone regarding resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported Pak move to restrict the movements of Hizbul Mujahideen; and

(d) if so, the details of the restrictions imposed and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Pakistan has not ended its support to cross border terrorism and has not dismantled the infrastructure of support to terrorism, directed at India from its soil.

(c) and (d) There had been reports of attempts by Pakistani authorities to intervene to prevent inter-factional fighting within Hizbul Mujahideen.

Visit of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State to India

1263. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had apprised U.S. Deputy Secretary of State during his last visit regarding India's concerns about ultras' camps and other infrastructure in Pakistan and Pak occupied Kashmir and terrorist activities being permitted by them;

(b) if so, whether he articulated India's concerns to Pak President and other Pak authorities during his subsequent Pakistan visit; if so, in what terms; and

(c) the Pak Government's response to dismantle these infrastructures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage travelled to Islamabad before he visited India on 9-10 May, 2003. He conveyed to the Government that in his meetings in Islamabad he had raised the issue of cross-border terrorism and the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan.

(c) Cross-border terrorism continues and the infrastructure of terrorism still exists in Pakistan.